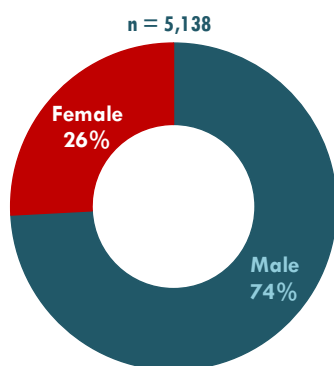


December 2010

HIV among Women

Consistent with national trends of HIV disease^o, slightly more than one quarter (26%) of HIV disease diagnoses in Virginia were among women between 2005 and 2009.¹ HIV disease has fluctuated in recent years for women, with an average of 264 (7 per 100,000) cases diagnosed per year (range: 216-310).

HIV Diagnoses by Gender in Virginia, 2005-2009



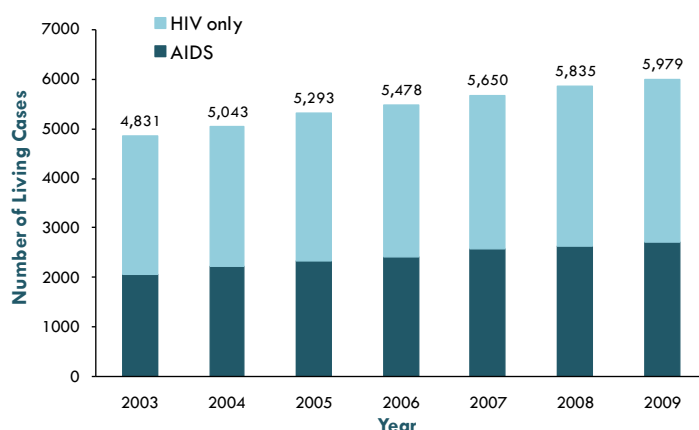
For every 5 women in Virginia diagnosed with HIV disease, approximately:

- 4** are Black
- 4** were exposed through heterosexual contact
- 3** are ages 25-44 at diagnosis

HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE

As of December 31, 2009, there were 5,979 women living with HIV disease in Virginia, 45% of whom had progressed to AIDS. Women comprise 26% of all people living with HIV disease and 1 in 670 women in Virginia are known to be living with HIV disease.

Women Living with HIV Disease in Virginia, 2003-2009

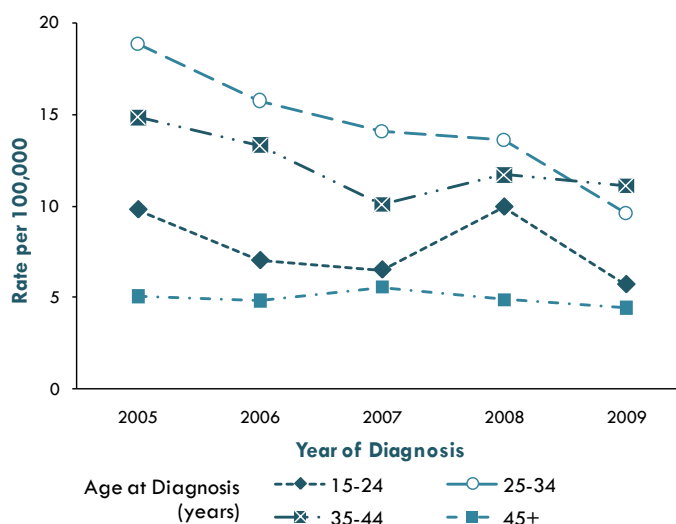


HIV DISEASE DIAGNOSES

By Age at Diagnosis

The age of diagnosis for Virginia women has fluctuated in the past 5 years. The highest rates of infection among women in 2009 are those aged 25-34 and 35-44 (9.6 and 11.1 per 100,000, respectively). The rate among the 15-24 age group decreased in 2009 to 5.7 per 100,000, but this could be due to incomplete data from reporting delays.

Rates of HIV Disease among Females by Age at Diagnosis in Virginia, 2005-2009†



Between 2005 and 2009, newly diagnosed HIV disease in non-Hispanic Black and White women peaked between the ages of 25 and 34; however, the rate for Black women (50 cases per 100,000) is more than 16 times higher than that of their White counterparts (3 per 100,000)[‡].

By Locality

Among cities/counties with a minimum of 20 people diagnosed with HIV disease between 2005 to 2009, the following localities have at least 35% women among all those diagnosed with HIV disease.

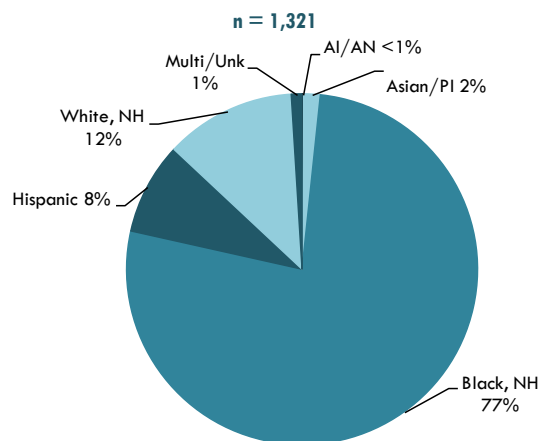
Danville	48%	(n=13)
Halifax Co.	43%	(n=9)
Accomack Co.	42%	(n=10)
Mecklenburg Co.	35%	(n=12)

HIV AMONG WOMEN

By Race/Ethnicity

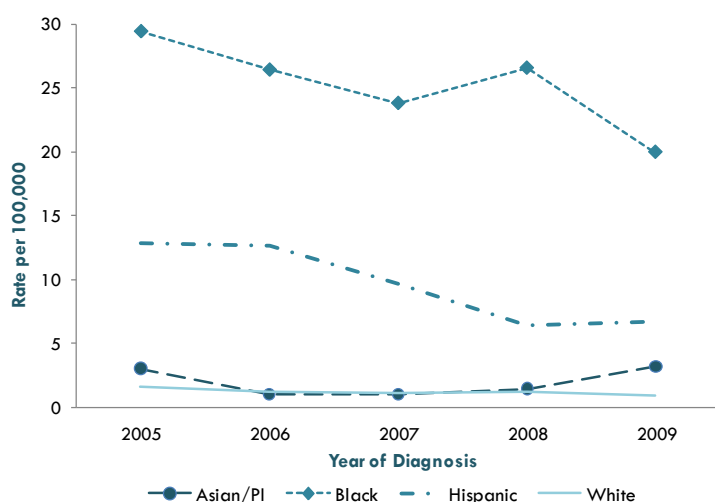
Between 2005 to 2009, White and Black persons comprised the vast majority of new diagnoses of HIV disease among women (89%). Among HIV disease diagnoses in the 5-year period, 77% of women are Black, compared to 56% of men; 12% are White, compared to 31% of men; and 8% of newly infected women are Hispanic, similarly to 9% among men. Black and Hispanic women are 21 and 8 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV disease than White women, respectively.

Female HIV Disease by Race/Ethnicity in Virginia, 2005-2009



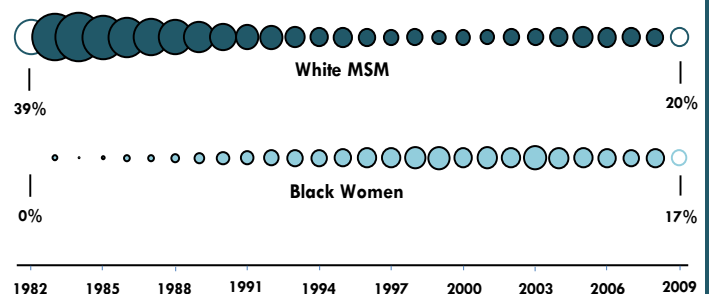
There are significant racial and ethnic disparities with regard to HIV disease. The rate of infection among Black women between 2005 and 2009 ranges from 20 to 30 cases per 100,000; comparatively, the rates for Hispanic females range between 6 - 13 per 100,000 during these 5 years and only approximately 1 per 100,000 for White women in Virginia. Cases of HIV disease among Asian/PI and AI/AN women remain low.

Rates of HIV Disease among Women by Race/Ethnicity in Virginia, 2005-2009*



HIV disease in Virginia is predominantly among MSM, but Black women are increasingly bearing the burden of infection. The figure below is scaled by each group's percentage of total cases of HIV disease for that year. In 1983, there were 3 cases of HIV diagnosis among Black females (6% of all HIV cases), followed by only 1 case in 1984. Comparatively, White MSM represented 39% of all HIV cases in 1982, 53% in 1983, and 55% in 1984. From 1996 to 2004, Black women represented a larger annual proportion of all HIV disease diagnoses compared to White MSM. Since then, the two groups have maintained similar percentages at approximately 20% each.

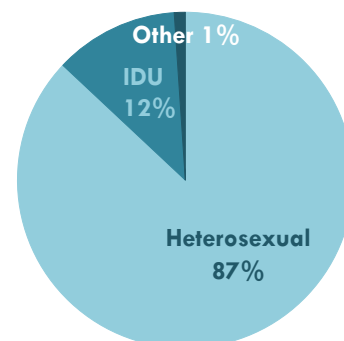
Trend of HIV Disease among White MSM and Black Women in Virginia, 1982-2009



By Transmission Category[^]

Women are most commonly exposed to HIV through heterosexual contact (87%). Some women may be unaware of their male partner's risk factors for HIV disease (such as unprotected sex with multiple partners, sex with men, or injection drug use).^{1,2} A woman is significantly more likely than a man to contract HIV during vaginal intercourse due to biologic vulnerability. Women who have sex only with women and who have no other risk factors, such as injection drug use, are at a very low risk for HIV disease.²

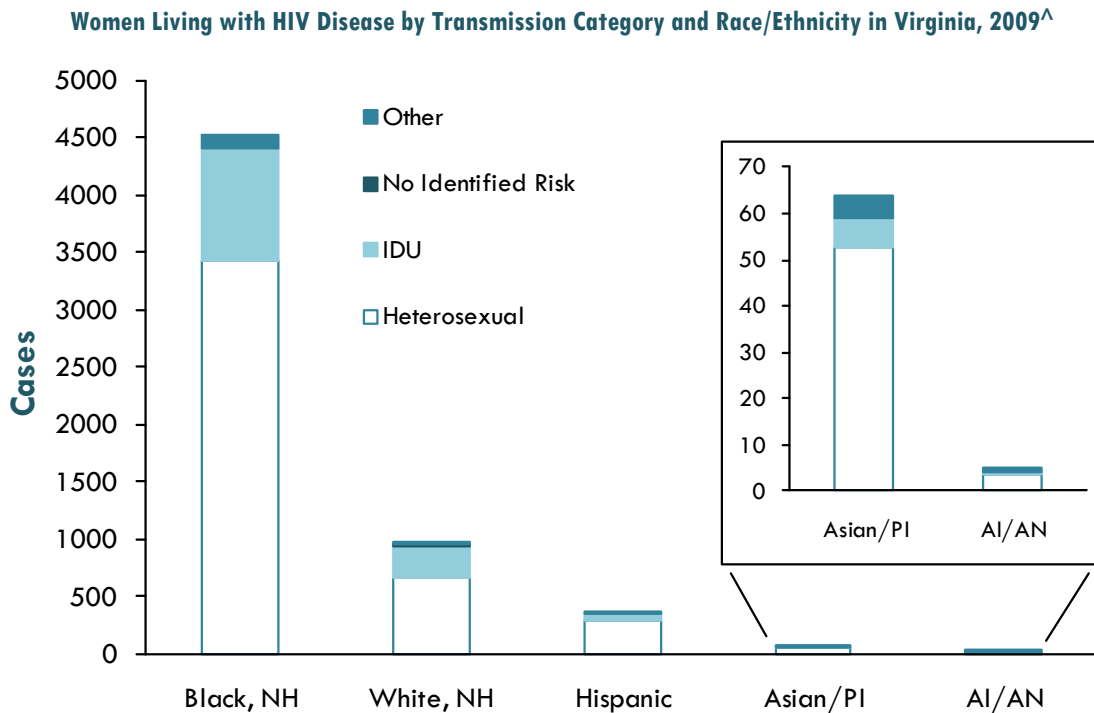
HIV Disease among Women by Transmission Category in Virginia, 2005-2009[^]



HIV AMONG WOMEN

Prevalence by Transmission Category[^]

Women living with HIV disease are most likely to have been exposed through heterosexual transmission. The reported percentages of heterosexual transmission for Black, Hispanic and White women living with HIV disease were similar (76%, 81% and 68%, respectively). IDU transmission is more likely to be reported by White women (28%) than Black or Hispanic women at 20% and 15%, respectively.



Data for 2009 is preliminary and may be incomplete due to reporting delays.

[†]Small case counts among females aged 0-14 may result in unreliable rate estimates and are not included in graph.

[‡]Small case counts among White females by age group may result in unreliable rate estimates.

^{*}Small case counts among Asian/PI and Hispanic may result in unreliable rate estimates.

[^]These data are not actual cases; the percentages presented are estimates of the transmission category using the CDC provided multiple imputation procedure for cases reported without an identified or reported risk.

Definitions

◊HIV disease: refers to anyone who is newly reported with HIV in the given time period, regardless of disease progression status

IDU: injection drug use

MSM: men who have sex with men

Asian/PI: Asian or Pacific Islander

AI/AN: American Indian or Alaska Native

NH: not Hispanic

References

¹CDC HIV/AIDS Basic Statistics: Diagnosis of HIV Infection by Transmission Category. Last modified July 27, 2010. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/basic.htm#hivaidsexposure>

²CDC HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet: HIV among Women Who Have Sex with Women. Last modified October 17, 2006. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/women/resources/factsheets/wsw.htm>

For more information...

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/data/>

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